

Security to foreign tourists

2999. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that safety and security is a main factor that prohibits foreign tourists from visiting the country particularly female tourists;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken/proposed to be taken by Government in this regard;

(c) whether Government have taken up the issues such as safety, security and cheating of foreign tourists with the State Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the achievements made/proposed to be made in regard to attract more foreign tourists in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) Safety and security of tourists is important for promotion of tourism.

(b) and (c) In order to ensure safety and security of foreign tourists, the Ministry of Tourism has advised all the State Government/Union Territories to deploy Tourist Police at important Tourist centres. The State Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Goa, Kerala, Maharashtra, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Jammu and Kashmir, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, etc. have deployed Tourist Police in one form or another.

(d) During the year 2005 foreign tourist arrivals within the country were 3.92 million i.e. an increase of 13.2% as compared to the previous year.

Strategies to attract foreign tourists

3000. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that lack of concrete strategies, infrastructure and tourist related information in our country has led to tremendous growth in leisure, religions and medical tourism in South East Asian countries; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the concrete steps proposed to be taken by Government to divert foreign tourists towards India?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) A well planned strategy for marketing, promotion and development of tourism in the country, in partnership with the State Governments and the Private Sector has led to a substantial growth in tourist arrivals to India as detailed below:

Year	Foreign Tourist Arrival	Percentage increase
2004	3.46 million	+25.8%
2005	3.92 million	+13.2%
2006 (till November)	3.88 million	+12.9%

A series of promotional activities are being undertaken by the India tourism offices overseas to further increase tourists arrivals to the country. These include advertising, participation in fairs and exhibitions, organising seminars, workshops and road shows, publication of brochures, offering joint advertising and brochure support and inviting media personalities, tour operators and opinion makers to visit the country under the Hospitality Programme of the Ministry.

The Ministry is also focusing on several niche areas of growth such as Meetings, Incentives and Exhibitions (MICE), Medical, Cruise, Golf and Spirituality.

Development of tourism in Uttar Pradesh

3001. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) the revenue generated from tourism sector during each of the last three years and the current year;
- (b) the amount allocated to the State Governments for the development of tourism during the above period, State-wise and year-wise; and
- (c) the details of the major projects taken up for development of tourism during this period, State-wise; particularly in Uttar Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) The foreign exchange generated from tourism sector during the last three years and the current year is as under: